THE AQUEDUCTS

One of the problems which arose as soon as the terrain had been properly prepared was that of providing the water required for the fountains.

The accounts ledger reveals that in 1560 a certain Camillo de Martio received payment for the construction of the Rivellese Aqueduct which was to serve the needs of the community of Tivoli, the Franciscan monastery, and the villa. We know that Cardinal Ippolito contributed a third of the expenses out of his own pocket, while the rest was shared by the city government and the prior of the monastery. The cistern for the aqueduct (which carries drinking water) is in Piazza Santa Maria Maggiore. Three storage tanks are located beneath the courtyard of the villa: these provided water for the Pegasus, Rome, and Dragon Fountains, and still supply the main building and the secret garden today.

Nevertheless, when the Organ Fountain and the others were being built, the fountaineers protested that there was hardly enough water and thus a new aqueduct would have to be erected. Zappi narrates: « They ordered that a great quantity of water be transported there by means of a new aqueduct starting from the Oval in the aforesaid garden, eight *palmi* (c. 4 feet) high, five wide, which goes underground through the city of Tivoli and comes out in our river Aniene by the waterfall known as Pelagus and at the mouth of the waters by Monte Catillo a walled structure was put up, having locked doors so that nobody could enter. This aqueduct turned out to be 800 *palmi* long. »

Zappi goes on to report that as soon as the aqueduct was finished he had the opportunity to walk through it lit up by torchlight and that the Cardinal had put up a reward for the man who brought him the news that the job was completed.

Since we have no specific reference concerning the time it took to carry out the project, the dating of the second aqueduct must be placed not before 1563 and not after 1565, as the Cardinal's architect, G. Galvani, who might well have been the project supervisor, informs us.

The arrival of water from the Aniene meant that the fountains became, and are to this very day, the villa's most remarkable feature. The sound of the water, sometimes a murmur and sometimes a roar, permeates the garden and enthralls the beholder who has come to partake of its beauty.